

**Agenda for
City Council Members' "NOON" Meeting
Monday, August 21, 2000
Immediately Following Director's Meeting
Conference Room 113**

I. MINUTES

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for August 14, 2000.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Administration's Proposed Changes To 2000-2001 Mayor's Recommended Budget - August 8, 2000.

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

1. Board of Health (Johnson)
2. Indoor Ice Facility Task Force Meeting (Shoecraft) - HELD OVER FROM THE "NOON" AGENDA OF AUGUST 14TH - REQUESTED BY MR. SHOECAFT

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and Commissions Upcoming Appointments (See Memo).
2. Letter from Carol J. Connor to Norman Langemach - RE: His appointment to the Library Board, effective September 1, 2000, for a term of 7 years, through August 31, 2007, has been informally approved by the City Council (See Letter).
3. Discussion on the letter from John Cripe, Compensation Manager, L/L County Personnel Department to appoint a new City Council representative to the Police and Fire Pension Advisory Committee (See Letter).

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS

1. Antelope Park Playground - A Place To Play Together - Dedication & Celebration - on Saturday, September 16, 2000 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. - Please join Mayor Don Wesely and Lincoln Southeast High School Students at the dedication of the largest and most accessible playground in the region - Family and Friends

are encouraged to attend! - (Rain location -Auld Recreation Center) - For more information call Brent Toalson at 423-0696 - Antelope Park Playground is located southeast of the intersection of "A" Street and Memorial Drive, just north of Auld Recreation Center (See Invitation).

2. CenterPointe, Inc. - You are cordially invited to be the guest of the CenterPointe Board of Trustees at a reception for our Executive Director, Valdeen Nelsen - Valdeen is leaving the agency on August 31, 2000 after fourteen years as Executive Director. She is pursuing other adventures and we hope you will join us in wishing her well Friday, August 25, 2000 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. - at Hillis & Company, 230 North 7th Street (See Invitation).
3. US FOODS, LLC - Open House - You are cordially invited to join us for an Open House and tour our new facilities in the Lincoln Airpark. At US Foods, 4343 NW 38th Street (in Airpark) - Open house and tour of our new breakfast cereal, snack, and ingredient manufacturing and packaging facilities at 4500 NW 39th Street on Friday, August 25, 2000 at 3:00 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting ceremony with the Honorable Don Wesely, Mayor of Lincoln, Lincoln City Council and the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners at 3:00 p.m. followed by tours & hors d'oeuvre's (See Invitation).
4. From the Desk of Don Killeen, C/C Property Management - Shirley is retiring after 20 years of service. Come join us as we wish her the best of luck!!! On Tuesday, August 22, 2000 at the C/C Building in Conference Room 113 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. (See Invitation).
5. Mayor Don Wesely and City Council Member Jonathan Cook invites you to a Town Hall Meeting from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2000 at the Auld Recreation Center, 3140 Summer in Antelope Park - RSVP to Diane Gonzolas at 441-7831 (See Invitation).
6. City of Lincoln - Public Presentation Announcement - The Public Presentation by Duncan Associates on Alternatives for Infrastructure Financing - On Thursday, August 31, 2000 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. - at the Cornhusker Hotel, 333 S. 13th Street (See Invitation of Letter).

V. COUNCIL MEMBERS

VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Discussion on the Agenda items for the Joint Meeting with the Omaha City Council.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MINUTES
CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS' "NOON" MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 21, 2000
CONFERENCE ROOM 113

Council Members Present: Jerry Shoecraft, Chair; Jeff Fortenberry, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp, Jonathan Cook [arrived late], Cindy Johnson, Annette McRoy, Coleen Seng.

Others Present: Ann Harrell, Jennifer Brinkman, Mayor's Office; Joel Pedersen, City Attorney's Office; Darrell Podany, Aid to Councilman Camp; Tammy Bogenreif, Council Staff; and Mark Andersen, *Lincoln Journal Star* Representative.

I. MINUTES

1. Minutes of "Noon" Council Members' Meeting for August 14, 2000.
2. Pre-Council Meeting Minutes - RE: Administration's Proposed Changes To 2000-2001 Mayor's Recommended Budget - August 8, 2000.

Mr. Shoecraft, Council Chair, requested a motion to approve the above-listed minutes. Ms. Cindy Johnson moved approval of the minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Coleen Seng. The motion to approve the minutes, as presented, carried by the following vote: AYES: Cindy Johnson, Jerry Shoecraft, Jeff Fortenberry, Coleen Seng, Jon Camp; NAYS: None; ABSENT FOR VOTE: Jonathan Cook; ABSTAINING: Annette McRoy

Prior to the regularly scheduled Agenda items, Mr. Joel Pedersen of the City Attorney's Office came forward to present comments to Council regarding a Status Report on Energy Options. Mr. Pedersen handed out materials to Council which included a summary of the Energy Options and a photocopy of an article that was printed in the August 17th *Lincoln Journal Star* quoting Alan Hersch on the Energy Options. [See Attachment Pages 1-3]

Mr. Pedersen wanted Council to be aware that the article did not indicate what the fixed price was. The ballots have gone out and the fixed price is at 66 cents a Therm, which is quite a bit higher than last year and the year before.

At 66 cents per Therm, it would be ideal to have “one size fits all”, but we’re not at that point. (Unless it would be the fixed prices in ‘98 - which would be a good buy this year). The 66 cents per Therm is a cost that came in a little higher than the City was hoping for. The City has asked Peoples Natural Gas to provide some additional information, but Mr. Pedersen was sure that Peoples had calculated the costs correctly, and that they are following the rate ordinance.

Mr. Pedersen noted that he had listed the options on the hand-out material. The thing he advised Council to keep in mind is, if the customers do nothing, they would receive the traditional package. So, if people are asking about that - that’s the “do nothing” option.

Another thing Mr. Pedersen advised the Council to keep in mind was that although the City Council regulates [the price] of natural gas, the Council does not regulate the wholesale price of the commodity. He noted that a lot of people don’t understand that. Gas price fluctuates according to market. What the Council regulates is the cost that the gas company recovers to bring that product to the consumers door.

Mr. Pedersen noted that he had summarized the options in the Energy Options Status Report. He noted that the fixed price is really a pool of gas that People’s will buy at that price. They will buy that for people who elect to choose the “Fixed Price” option. It’s a ‘real cost’ for them - they can’t later “un-buy” that gas if the market price is lower. It’s a commitment on their part at a fixed price.

The Guaranteed Weather still has that service and customers pay a little more because the hedge includes a sort of insurance against really cold weather. That’s a fixed price, plus an additional hedge against cold weather.

Those are the options. Mr. Pedersen noted that an average customer uses about 900 Therms of gas per year (roughly - perhaps 1000 in a colder weather winter). At last years rate, if a customer had chosen the fixed price option and had used 900 Therms of gas, they would have paid about \$468.00. At 66 cents, that bill would go up to \$594.00 - almost \$600.00 for an average winter, average usage.

It will be noticeable, even at a fixed price rate. Mr. Pedersen stated that they were hopeful that the traditional price option doesn’t repeat February of ‘97 when the prices went up and the weather was very cold. People needed to buy lots of units of gas at very high prices.

Mr. Camp asked what the price on a Therm was at that time [1997]. Mr. Pedersen noted that the price then reached as high as 72 cents per Therm.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if it was correct that a customer had to sign up for the fixed price option; asking if a customer does nothing, then the cost will fluctuate with the whole sale prices? Mr. Pedersen indicated that that was correct.

Mr. Shoecraft asked what the price was currently. Mr. Pedersen answered that the July rate was at 58 cents per Therm. Mr. Camp noted that this is really high for summer usage. Mr. Pedersen agreed noting that ordinarily, summer rates are about 38-42 cents/Therm.

Mr. Pedersen closed his remarks, noting that this is a brief summary of the gas rates status. He suggested that if Council Members receive calls from constituents, to refer them to the City Attorney's Office. Mr. Pedersen refers them to Alan Hersch first. Some do ask questions that pertain to the regulations which the Law Department answers.

Mr. Shoecraft thanked Mr. Pedersen for the presentation.

II. COUNCIL REPORTS ON BOARDS, COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS AND CONFERENCES

1. BOARD OF HEALTH (Johnson) Ms. Johnson noted that she had explained last week that she would be unable to attend the meeting due to the rescheduling.

2. INDOOR ICE FACILITY TASK FORCE (Shoecraft) - HELD OVER FROM THE "NOON" AGENDA OF AUGUST 14TH - REQUESTED BY MR. SHOECAFT - Mr. Shoecraft asked Ms. Harrell if she had any information on that. Ms. Harrell noted that she did not. She wondered why it was on the Agenda. Mr. Shoecraft explained that he had requested it remain on the agenda because he had heard that some things about the facility. Ms. Harrell commented that there was nothing to report right now.

OTHER MEETINGS REPORTS:

Mr. Shoecraft asked Ms. McRoy if there was anything she wished to share from her trip to the Democratic National Convention. Ms. McRoy stated that over-all, she came back re-energized and re-dedicated to the responsibilities of her work on the Council for her Lincoln constituents

Several Democratic personalities and `dynasties' were discussed briefly.

III. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS -

1. Memo from Jennifer Brinkman - RE: Boards and Commissions Upcoming Appointments - *Noted without Comment*

2. Letter from Carol J. Connor to Norman Langemach - RE: His appointment to the Library Board, effective September 1, 2000, for a term of 7 years, through August 31, 2007, has been informally approved by the City Council - *Noted without Comment.*

3. Discussion on the letter from John Cripe, Compensation Manager, L/L County Personnel Department to appoint a new City Council representative to the Police and Fire Pension Advisory Committee - Mr. Camp asked if that was a Council Member or someone Council would appoint. Mr. Shoecraft asked Ms. Brinkman if this was to be a Council Member or someone appointed by the Council. Ms. Brinkman indicated that this was to be a citizen that the Council would like appointed to the Committee.

Ms. Seng noted that she would like to have someone ask Ross Hecht if he has any suggestions on possible appointees. She noted that this really needs to be someone from a financial institution background.

Mr. Fortenberry asked if the City Council ever had a representative on that Committee? He asked how it is structured, wondering if it is by ordinance. Ms. Brinkman stated that in the packet, attached to John's letter is a copy of the ordinance that sets up the Pension Advisory Committee. She noted that the ordinance is fairly vague. The Fire Union names two people; the Police Union names two people, and the City Council names the two other members of the Advisory Committee. She continued stating that one of the reasons they're asking for a new name is that McCray will be going off the Committee in October, but a special committee is being set up to look at the pension, because Administration has been getting so many questions from the unions about how the pension is structured and some other differences.

Mr. Fortenberry suggested that maybe Council could look for a representative from the community for the regular on-going committee, but for

the Task Force - Mr. Camp has a back-ground in this and has asked a lot of good questions. Mr. Fortenberry felt that he personally had the same set of concerns. He noted that the City has, over the last six months, gotten hit with so many different issues regarding the various City pensions that he felt it was important for a member of the City Council to be there. He noted with Mr. Camp's background in the area, Mr. Camp would be a good representative.

Ms. Brinkman stated that she would talk to the Mayor about it. Four other people have already been named. Mr. Shoecraft commented that if it is a committee that would be directly involved with that, then he didn't think a Council Member should be on the committee, because the Council has to vote on those issues. He felt it would be inappropriate to have a Council Member on a committee that will bring issues forward for a Council vote. He emphasized that if it was something other than that, it wouldn't be a problem. He suggested to Ms. Brinkman that perhaps exactly what the Committee will be addressing should be ascertained. If it is something that Council will eventually vote on, Council Members should not be on the Committee.

Ms. Brinkman explained that the special committee is made up of these extra four members, *plus the regular committee*. She stated that they hadn't wanted to usurp the regular committee whose members have wanted to have input into these larger issues. So, since McCray is on the regular committee, they're asking to have someone put in his place, because they want to get the special committee started. It is the person who would be on the regular committee who is being requested appointed by Council.

Mr. Shoecraft requested Council to consider names for nomination and bring them forward by next week. Council agreed to this. [*These names will be presented by Council Members at the August 28, 2000 "Noon" meeting for consideration*]

IV. MEETINGS/INVITATIONS – Noted Without Comment

V. COUNCIL MEMBERS

JONATHAN COOK - No Further Comments

ANNETTE McROY - No Further Comments

CINDY JOHNSON - No Further Comments

JERRY SHOECRAFT - No Further Comments

JEFF FORTENBERRY - No Further Comments

COLEEN SENG - No Further Comments

JON CAMP - No Further Comments

ANN HARRELL - No Further Comments

JENNIFER BRINKMAN - No Further Comments

VI. REQUESTS OF COUNCIL FROM MAYOR - NONE

VII. MISCELLANEOUS

Agenda Items for the Joint Meeting with the Omaha City Council were briefly discussed. At this point the following items have been requested for the Agenda:

1. Lincoln/Omaha Airport facility (CS)
2. Technology Crescent between Lincoln and Omaha (J.Camp)
3. Update on Infrastructure Standards - Co-ordination (J.Camp)
4. Telecommunication and R-O-W Access (Lo)
5. State Aid Formula (Omaha)
6. League of Nebraska Municipalities (Omaha)
7. Discussion on Sexually Oriented Businesses - Omaha's Prohibition (JF)

The validity of continuing the Joint Meetings was also discussed with Council Members noting that Omaha is often unsupportive of the legislative concerns brought forward by Lincoln.

Ms. Johnson asked if a Task Force could be made up with two Council Members from each City who would get together on a monthly basis and discuss issues of joint concerns. She asked if such a Task Force could make a motion and vote in that arena. Is that something that the Omaha Council would want to do. Ms. Brinkman stated that if a public notice is given that it is an open meeting, she assumed that it could be done. Ms. Johnson asked, if this *is* something that the two Councils decide they want to do, *can* it be done? Ms. Brinkman stated that she would check with the Law Department as to the legalities of such an arrangement.

Ms. Seng commented that she felt it would be good for Ms. Brinkman, when reviewing the proposed legislation being sent to the State Legislature to note what is currently pending. Then we can see if we have the support of the Omaha contingent...perhaps we could do a little lobbying at this up-coming meeting.

Ms. Brinkman noted that the Omaha Council had contacted her this morning with a request for discussion on LB-775 (Affects on Local Budgets) Mr. Cheloha suggested that the Finance Directors from both cities be there for that discussion.

Mr. Camp thought a bigger view might be posed for economic development in Nebraska, wondering if there are some things nationally that the two Councils ought to be looking at that would help our region. This, in the long run, would also benefit both cities.

VIII. MEETING ENDED - Approximately 12:33 p.m.